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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

Barnabas & Vampirella: The New B & V

by Cliff Biggers

In comics, B&V normally refers to Riverdale's lovely ladies Betty and Veronica. However, Dynamite publisher *Nick Barrucci* hopes to replace that association this summer, when he launches is own B&V team—Barnabas and Vampirella.

Two of popular fiction's best-known vampires are crossing paths later this summer in the pages of ***Dark Shadows/Vampirella #1,*** a crossover miniseries written by *Marc Andreyko* and illustrated by *Patrick Berkenkotter.*

Publisher *Nick Barrucci* explained how the concept of the crossover came about. "It seemed like a natural, really," Barrucci said. "Knowing the back history—Vampirella being one of the most powerful vampire heroes and Barnabas being such a well known vampire—it seems logical that they would meet... particularly since we have the comics rights for both properties! And the attention that the movie has brought to Dark Shadows definitely doesn't hurt; it means that we will have a lot of new readers who might discover Vampirella through this crossover story.

"We didn't plan this crossover from the beginning; it is a project that we had given thought to, and that were able to put together in the last few months. This took quite a bit of planning and coordination with the ***Dark Shadows*** licensor, *Jim Pierson,* and *Marc Andreyko* seemed like the perfect writer for the project."

How does a crossover like this come about? Are licensors always open to the idea of a story combining their intellectual property with another character? "The whole process starts with the idea," Barrucci said. "Then the pitch starts with the writer. We may approach a writer and let him know what we're looking for, or ask the writer to let us know his thoughts first so that we can evaluate his pitch. Once we reached the point where we felt comfortable with the concept and that we had the right storyteller for the job, then we presented it to Jim at ***Dark Shadows***. He wanted certain parameters in there before he would approve; we were able to provide them, and the project moved forward from brainstorm to reality."

Marc Andreyko offered a synopsis of his storyline. "The disappearance in NYC of a woman from Collinsport brings Barnabas to the Big Apple," Andreyko said, "where, naturally, his path crosses with Vampirella's, who is separately investigating a series of brutal killings."

Barnabas and Vampirella are very different sorts of vampires; how do the two of them view one another, and how well do they work with one another? "Well, Vampirella is *definitely* a more modern, street-savvy vampire, whereas Barnabas is still an 18th century gentleman at heart," Andreyko explained. "She finds him a bit stuffy and repressed, whereas Barnabas is a bit overwhelmed by New York City and the extremity of Vampi's behavior and attitude.

"As to how well they work together— well, let's say that things get off to an extremely bumpy start," Andreyko added with a smile.

If it sounds like there's a little bit of a "fish out of water" approach to this storyline, you're beginning to see part of the appeal of the crossover. "This story takes place entirely in the Big Apple, so Barnabas is most definitely the 'fish out of water' in this miniseries," Andreyko said, "but if we get to do a sequel, Vampirella in Maine sounds like fun. Sort of like ***The Cider House Rules...*** but with vampires!"

Andreyko finds it particularly appealing to get a chance to write a ***Dark Shadows*** story as well as a Vampirella tale. "As a kid, I would race home from school to watch the reruns of the original soap opera," Andreyko said, "and I absolutely loved it. The show was such a gloriously weird experience for a six-year-old! So I already had a working knowledge of those characters.

"As for Vampirella—I've written her before, and I loved the old Warren Magazines, so with a little help from Dynamite's new ***Vampirella*** books, I was ready to go!

"Barnabas Collins and Vampirella are two classic characters in vampire lore, so getting the chance to pen their first meeting is a blast."

Will the supporting cast of either series play a role in Andreyko's story? "Yup—both Quentin Collins and Pantha play significant roles in this miniseries—so I guess we'll see if wolves and panthers are friends or foes!"

While the original ***Dark Shadows*** was more or less a serious gothic drama with soap-opera elements, the recent film had a much more campy approach. Which tone is Andreyko taking with his version of ***Dark Shadows***? "Well, the original script had its own campy moments, but largely by accident—being a live soap, there were no second takes—and that was part of its charm," Andreyko said. "And after seeing the Tim Burton film, I can say that the trailers are deceiving. The comedy comes from Barnabas Collins being a man out of time. That's the sort of take I'm playing with here as well. Any 'comedy' that appears comes from an organic, natural place, not jokiness for the sake of jokiness. And trust me, some incredibly horrible stuff happens in this story, too!"

Joining Andreyko on ***Dark Shadows/Vampirella*** is artist *Patrick Berkenkotter,* who's already had the opportunity to illustrate the seductive vampire heroine prior to taking on this series. "I've worked on two ***Vampirella*** issues before, but it's just as exciting now as it was initially. I mean, she's one of the most recognizable female characters ever and I *love* vampires -- from the original ***Salem's Lot*** to... yes, even to ***Twilight***.

"This is, however, my first time to draw Barnabas Collins and ***Dark Shadows,"*** Berkenkotter added. "I first learned about ***Dark Shadows*** only a decade ago, from a sci-fi magazine. Unfortunately, it never aired in my country, so I haven't seen a single episode. I ended up doing all of my research at YouTube. I'm not sure why I was lucky enough to get assigned to this project, but I hope that they found something in my style that can work well with both ***Vampirella*** and ***Dark Shadows.***"

"Crossovers get a bad rap when they're not done right, or they feel forced," Dynamite editor *Joe Rybandt* added. "But this one felt like a natural the moment we had the idea. The setting, the characters, the bad guys...the whole thing has come together so naturally, and Marc and Patrick are the perfect pair to make it happen."

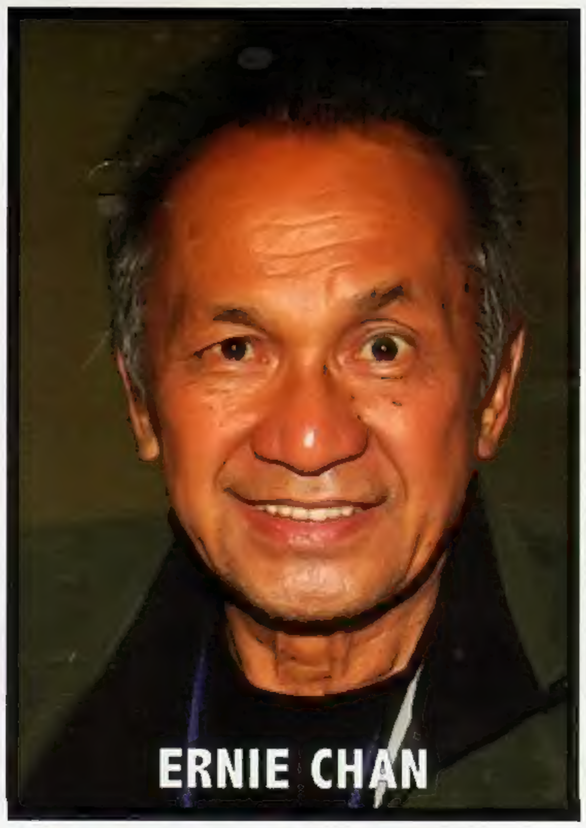
"It's fun to further expand the reach of ***Dark Shadows*** and hopefully expose the classic characters to new fans who might just be discovering Barnabas with the new *Johnny Depp* movie," Jim Pierson, spokesman for Dark Shadows rights owner Dan Curtis Productions, said.

Dark Shadows/Vampirella #1, a $3.99 comic by *Marc Andreyko & Patrick Berkenkotter* with cover art by *Fabiano Neves,* is scheduled for August release.

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*



CSNsider

•Veteran comics illustrator *Ernie Chan* ased away on May 16th after a year-long battle with cancer at the age of 71. Chan, who did thousands of pages for Marvel and DC during his career, is best known for his detailed linework on Marvel's ***Conan;*** his work was also published under the name *Ernie Chua,* but the detailed linework was instantly recognizeable no matter which name was used.

•*Rob Liefeld* will illustrate a previously-unannounced 1-for-10 variant cover for ***Deathstroke #10,*** featuring Deathstroke and Lobo.

•DC has cancelled orders for ***Superman: Kryptonite Nevermore TP;*** the title will not be resolicited.

•Marvel has announced that, beginning with their July releases, all of their books will be printed in the self-cover format (rather than having a heavier-paper outer cover wrapped around 32 pages of interior, the book will be a 32-page book printed on the same paper stock throughout, with the cover printed on the outermost pages).

•***Secret Service*** will now be a six-issue limited series (it was originally announced as a seven-issue series).

Back to Press

•***Astonishing X-Men #50 2nd Printing*** (Mar128259), featuring a variant cover by *Dustin Weaver,* in stores now.

•***Avengers Vs. X-Men #0 4th Printing*** (MAR128287), featuring a variant cover by *Frank Cho,* in stores 6/13.

•***Avengers Vs. X-Men #1 4th Printing*** (APR128104), featuring a variant cover by *Jim Cheung,* in stores 6/20.

•***Avengers Vs. X-Men #2 4th Printing*** (APR128105), featuring a variant cover by *Jim Cheung,* in stores 6/20.

•***AVX #2 2nd Printing*** (MAR128194), featuring a variant cover by *Salvador Larroca,* in stores now.

•***Batman #4 4th Printing*** (APR128092), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 6/13.

•***Dancer #1 2nd Printing*** (APR128084), in stores 6/13.

•***Pantha #1 2nd Printing*** (APR128098), in stores 6/27.

•***Prophecy #1 2nd Printing*** (APR128099), in stores 7/4.

•***Saga #1 5th Printing*** (APR128195), in stores 6/13.

•***The Spider #1 2nd Printing*** (APR128097), in stores 6/27.

•***Spider-Men #1 2nd Printing*** (APR128107), featuring a variant cover by *Jim Cheung,* in stores 6/20.

•***Thief of Thieves #1 4th Printing*** (APR128088), in stores 6/13.

•***Thief of Thieves #2 4th Printing*** (APR128089), in stores 6/13.

•***Thief of Thieves #3 4th Printing*** (APR128090), in stores 6/13.

•***Thief of Thieves #4 3rd Printing*** (APR128091), in stores 6/13.

Coming Comics—DC in August

Before Watchmen continues to explore the prehistory and backstory of the Watchmen in ***Before Watchmen: Nite Owl #2*** by *J. Michael Straczynski, Andy Kubert, &Joe Kubert;* ***Before Watchmen: Ozymandias #2*** by *Len Wein & Jae Lee;* ***Before Watchmen: Rorschach #1*** by *Brian Azzarello & Lee Bermejo;* ***Before Watchmen: Dr. Manhattan #1*** by *J. Michael Straczynski & Adam Hughes;* and ***Before Watchmen: Minutemen #3*** by *Darwyn Cooke.* Each book also features a backup chapter of the ***Crimson Corsair*** serialized saga, courtesy of *Len Wein & John Higgins.*

What happens when Superman is too late to save Lois Lane? And what is the staggering new threat The Man of Steel is about to face? *Grant Morrison & Rags Morales* answer those questions in ***Action Comics #12.*** This issue also features a backup tale in which Perry White's brush with death leads to startling consequences for Superman!

Jonah Hex and Tallulah Black's battle with the followers of the Crime Bible comes to a startling conclusion in ***All-Star Western #12*** by *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Moritat.*

Buddy and Alec go into the Rot in ***Animal Man #12*** by *Jeff Lemire & Steve Pugh,* and the confrontation continues into ***Swamp Thing #12*** by *Scott Snyder & Marco Rudy.* That's right—it's Swamp Thing and Animal Man, together at last!

Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Joe Prado reveal the traitor in the team in ***Aquaman #12,*** the final installment of "The Others." And just who is Black Manta working for?

Batgirl battles Batwoman in ***Batgirl #12*** by *Gail Simone, Ardian Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes.*

Scott Snyder, Greg Capullo, & Jonathan Glapion present the epilogue to "The Court of Owls" in ***Batman #12,*** which also kicks off the next major storyline.

Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, & Mick Gray present the finale of the fight with Terminus in ***Batman and Robin #12.***

The Scarecrow wants to use the Dark Knight as a guinea pig for the ultimate fear toxin in ***Batman: The Dark Knight #12*** by *Gregg Hurwitz, David Finch, & Richard Friend.*

In *Grant Morrison & Chris Burnham's* ***Batman Incorporated #4,*** Batman and Talia Al Ghul continue their fight for control of their son Damian—better known as Robin—as Wingman and Redbird descend upon Gotham City.

The secrets of mad dictator Lord Battle are revealed in ***Batwing #12*** by *Judd Winick, Marcus To, & Ryan Winn,* which also guest-stars Nightwing and Justice League International.

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SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

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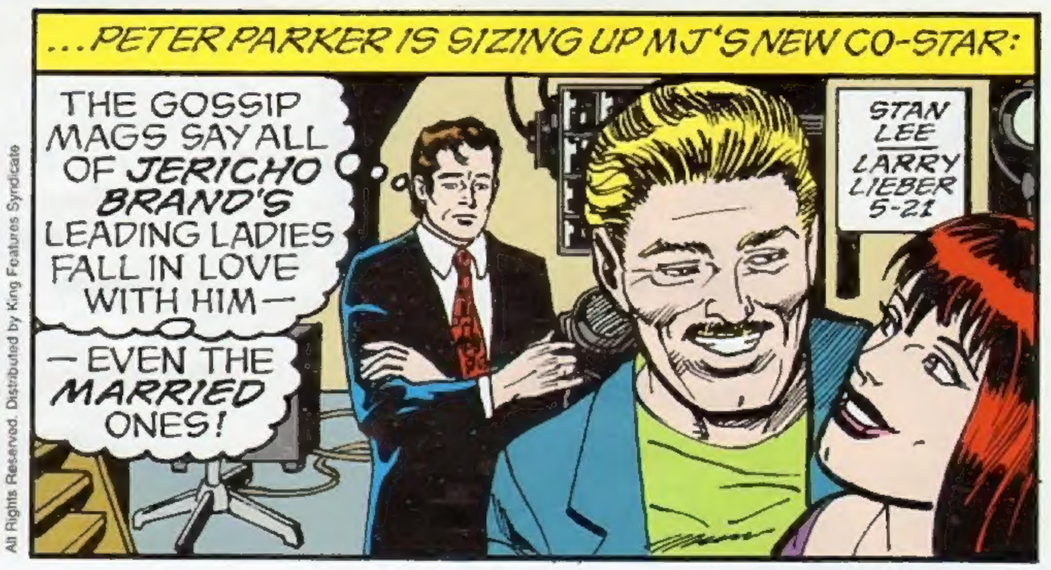

...PETER PARKER IS SIZING UP MJ'S NEW CO-STAR:
THE GOSSIP MAGS SAY ALL OF JERICHO BRAND'S LEADING LADIES FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM—
—EVEN THE MARRIED ONES!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
5-21

Batwoman and Abbott are hot on the trail of the urban legend Bloody Mary in ***Batwoman #12*** by *J.H. Williams III & W. Haden Blackman*, which guest-stars Wonder Woman.

In *Duane Swierczynski, Travel Foreman, & Jeff Huet's* ***Birds of Prey #12,*** the team learns that the plant monsters were the creation of Poison Ivy! And now, with deadly toxins in their bloodstreams, Birds have six months to live – and they'll be given an antidote only if they help Ivy punish those who are despoiling the planet.

Blood Beetle takes on Blue Beetle in ***Blue Beetle #12*** by *Tony Bedard, Ig Guara, & J.P. Mayer*... with Jaime's life and reputation as a hero on the line!

Captain Atom regains his human appearance in ***Captain Atom #12*** by *J.T. Krul & Freddie E. Williams II*. But even though he's closer than ever to regaining his humanity, it comes at a major cost as chaos is unleashed at his laboratory headquarters.

Catwoman confronts Dollhouse in ***Catwoman #12*** by *Judd Winick, Adriana Melo, & Julio Ferreira*. And don't miss the fallout from Catwoman's tryst with Spark!

Kid Flash stars in a solo adventure that pits him against prehistoric trouble in ***DC Universe Presents #12*** by *Fabian Nicieza & Jorge Jimenez*.

Rob Liefeld presents the final battle with Lobo in ***Deathstroke #12.***

In *Pau Cornell, Diogenes Neves, & Oclair Albert's* ***Demon Knights #12,*** the Demon Knights are helpless in the clutches of Morgaine Le Fey. Even worse, they've already given her exactly what she needs to become the planet's most powerful magician!

What is the final fate of Charlotte Rivers and Hugh Marder? Find out in ***Detective Comics #12*** by *Tony S. Daniel, Ed Benes, & Rob Hunter*, which also guest-stars Robin.

Batman takes on the Black Mask in ***Detective Comics Annual #1*** by *Tony S. Daniel, Romano Molenaar, & Sandu Florea*.

In a desperate attempt to save Manteau from X.N., Nelson is forced to team with his enemy in ***Dial H #4*** by *China Mieville & mateus Santolouco*.

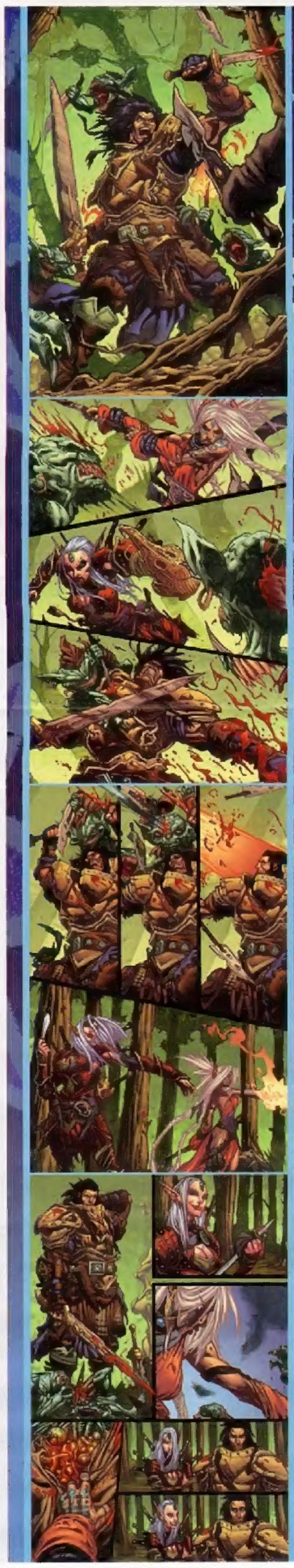
The all-new Atom Smasher debuts in ***Earth 2 #4,*** courtesy of *James Robinson, Nicola Scott, & Trevor Scott*.

In ***The Flash #12,*** *Francis Manapul & Brian Buccellato* set up the Rogues as a team as the next major storyline for the series begins!

The Rogues are making the Flash's life plenty tough. But as *Francis Manapul, Brian Buccellato, & Marcus To* reveal, something worse than The Rogues is just waiting for the right moment to attack in ***The Flash Annual #1...***

The mole inside S.H.A.D.E. is revealed in *Matt Kindt, Alberto Ponticelli, & Wayne Faucher's* ***Frankenstein, Agent of S.H.A.D.E. #12.***

The quest for Ashra Khan takes a new turn in ***The Fury of Firestorm: The Nuclear Men #12*** by *Joe Harris, Yildiray Cinar, & Marlo Alquiza*.



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"The War That Time Forgot" and "The Unknown Soldier" wrap up their story arcs in ***G.I. Combat #4***—but fret not, ***G.I. Combat*** continues on next month with new features!

Oliver Queen hits the streets of China in ***Green Arrow #12*** by *Ann Nocenti & Harvey Tolibao*, and it's arrows vs. martial arts!

Black Hand has been freed from the Indigo Tribe, and now he's more powerful than ever in ***Green Lantern #12*** by *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Mark Irwin*. What horrible plan does he have in mind, and to what lengths will Hal Jordan and Sinestro go to stop it?

"The Revenge of the Black Hand" comes to a startling conclusion in ***Green Lantern Annual #1*** by *Geoff Johns & Ethan Van Sciver*.

The dust settles on the Corps' war with the Alpha Lanterns and John Stewart's final fate is revealed in ***Green Lantern Corps #12*** by *Peter Tomasi, Fernando Pasarin, & Scott Hanna*. Meanwhile, Guy Gardner learns the consequences of his defiance of the Guardians.

Tony Bedard, Tyler Kirkham, & Batt pit the New Guardians against Larfleeze in ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #12.***

The Grifter faces off with Hellspont in ***Grifter #12*** *Rob Liefeld, Frank Tieri, Scott Clark, & Dave Beaty.*

Andrew Bennet's hold over the vampires is about to collapse in *Joshua Hale Fialkov & Andrea Sorrentino's* ***I, Vampire #12*** as Stormwatch attacks!

The team struggles to stay together as they try to combat their newest foe in ***Justice League #12*** by *Geoff Johns, Jim Lee, & Scott Williams*. And DC promises that this issue features a shocking last page that will have the world talking about this special, extra-sized issue!

Faust's true master is revealed in ***Justice League Dark #12*** by *Jeff Lemire & Mikel Janin*. And the divided team must go up against Blackbriar Thorn!

Dan Jurgens, Aaron Lopresti, & Matt Ryan bring ***Justice League International*** to a close with its 12th issue, which features the funeral for Rocket Red. Several members resign from the team – who will be left?

Geoff Johns, Dan DiDio, & Jason Fabok reveal the true nature of OMAC in ***Justice League International Annual #1.***

The Legion's battle against the Dominators comes to an epic conclusion in *Paul Levitz & Francis Portela's* ***Legion of Super-Heroes #12***... and the fate of Comet Queen is revealed.

The team devises a plan to save their future by staying alive in the present in ***Legion Lost #12*** by *Tom DeFalco & Pete Woods*. Will they survive the fight against the Metamerican and the Metamarines, or lose the battle against each other?

Ian Edginton & Mike S. Miller present the tale of a top supermodel turned into a vampire in ***National Comics: Looker #1.***

Nightwing—joined by Robin—battles Paragon for Gotham City in ***Nightwing #12*** by *Kyle Higgins, Eddy Barrows, Ruy Jose, & Eber Ferreira.*

The female Freedom Fighter earns her own series as *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, Cat Staggs, & Rich Perrotta* present ***Phantom Lady #1.*** But she's not alone—she's joined by the diminutive dynamo known as Doll Man!

Betrayal, revelations, blood, and death come to the group in ***The Ravagers #4*** by *Howard Mackie, Ian Churchill, & Norm Rapmund*, as some find themselves powerless to the seductive charms and horrific powers of Brother Blood. And not everyone will survive this encounter!

Starfire finds herself caught between the forces of The Blight and the political maneuvering of her sister, Blackfire, in ***Red Hood and the Outlaws #12*** by *Scott Lobdell & Kenneth Rocafort.*

Bleez—captive of the Star Sapphires. Rankorr—poisoned, dying, and lost in space. And Atrocitus in a battle to the death with Abysmus. It's all in ***Red Lanterns #12*** by *Peter Milligan & Miguel Sepulveda.*

In ***Resurrection Man #12*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Jesus Saiz*, Mitch meets the person who's been pulling the strings of his misfortunes since the first issue!

Hawkman takes on St. Bastion in ***The Savage Hawkman #12*** by *Rob Liefeld, Mark Poulton, Joe Bennett, & Art Thibert* – with Pike, an incredible assassin with key info about Hawkman's past, caught in the middle!

The Martian Manhunter quits Stormwatch forever in ***Stormwatch #12*** by *Peter Milligan, Ignacio Calero, & Sean Parsons.*

The Squad's traitor is revealed in ***Suicide Squad #12*** by *Adam Glass & Fernando Dagnino*, and Basilisk takes the fight to Amanda Waller's home turf.

There's a monster hiding in the shadows of New York after dark, and she's set her sights on Superboy in **Superboy #12** by *Tom DeFalco, R.B.Silva, & Rob Lean*. But her interest in him is more complicated than it seems!

In *Michael Green, Mike Johnson, & Mahmud Asrar's* ***Supergirl #12,*** Supergirl confronts Superman in his Fortress of Solitude about the Bottle City of Kandor. What mysterious connection does this have to a piece of Kryptonian debris that crashed with her ship?

The entity that came from the bottom of the ocean returns in ***Superman #12*** by *Dan Jurgens & Jesus Merino* – and it's trying to create a dimensional gateway for his army!

Abducted by a group of mysterious aliens, Superman is dragged to a remote alien galaxy to take part in The Games, a world hopping game of cat-and-mouse where players are hunted for sport. Can even the help of a mysterious new Green Lantern overcome the might of an alien empire? Find out in ***Superman Annual #1*** by *Keith Giffen, Scott Kolins, Tyler Kirkham, & Batt.*

J. Michael Straczynski, Shane Davis, & Sandra Hope revisit their bold, contemporary reinterpretation of the Man of Steel saga in ***Superman: Earth One Volume 2 HC,*** a sequel to the best-selling original graphic novel of 2010 (advance solicited for October release). Young Clark Kent continues his journey toward becoming the World's Greatest Super Hero but finds dealing with humanity to be a bigger challenge than he ever imagined! From a ruthless dictator to a new love interest who's *not* Lois Lane, things are never easy for this emerging Man of Steel. And the worst is yet to come, in the form of a man-monster with an insatiable appetite: the Parasite! The only thing that might appease his hunger is The Last Son of Krypton! But that will also mean he will have Superman's powers without his conscience, and Kal-El learns to live without powers beyond those of mere mortals.

Scott Lobdell, Brett Booth, & Norm Rapmund introduce Diesel in ***Teen Titans #12.*** Is he Wonder Girl's new boyfriend, or worse?

Voodoo and Pris are ready for the fight of their lives...against each other... in ***Voodoo #12*** by *Josh Williamson & Sami Basri.*

Wonder Woman faces a choice: Defend Zeus's throne from Apollo—or defend her closest friend! See what choice she makes in ***Wonder Woman #12*** by *Brian Azzarello & Cliff Chiang.*

Hakkou, the Irradiated Man – the mysterious bad guy who might have a connection to Earth 2 – has grown to monstrous proportions. It's up to Power Girl and Huntress to stop him – from destroying Tokyo in ***Worlds' Finest #4*** by *Paul Levitz, George Pérez, Kevin Maguire, & Scott Koblish.*

DC collected editions (advance solicited for September and October release) include:

- ***Batman: Arkham City TP,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries.
- ***Batman: The Dark Knight Volume 1—Knight Terrors HC,*** collecting ***Batman: The Dark Knight #s 1-9.***
- ***Batman: Knightfall Volume 3—KnightsEnd TP (New Edition),*** collecting ***Batman #s 509-514, Batman: Shadow Of The Bat #s 29-34, Detective Comics #s 676-681, Batman: Legends Of The Dark Knight #s 62-63, Robin #s 8-13, & Catwoman # 12-13.***
- ***Birds of Prey Volume 1: Trouble in Mind TP,*** collecting ***Birds of Prey #s 1-7.***
- ***Brightest Day Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Brightest Day #s 17-24.***
- ***The Flash Volume 2: The Road to Flashpoint TP,*** collecting ***Flash #s 8-12.***
- ***Fringe: Beyond the Fringe TP,*** collecting ***Fringe*** tales originally written by *Joshua Jackson, Jhonen Vasquez;* and others, with art by Becky *Cloonan, Tom Mandrake, Jorge Jimenez, Mike S. Miller,* and more.
- ***The Fury of Firestorm: The Nuclear Mean Volume 1—The God Particle TP,*** collecting ***The Fury of Firestorm #s 1-6.***
- ***Green Arrow: The Archer's Quest TP (New Edition),*** collecting *Brad Meltzer's* ***Green Arrow #s 16-21.***
- ***Green Arrow: The Longbow Hunters TP (New Edition),*** collecting the *Mike Grell* miniseries.
- ***Green Lantern: New Guardians Volume 1—The Ring Bearer HC,*** collecting ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #s 1-7.***
- ***Green Lantern: War of the Green Lanterns TP,*** collecting ***Green Lantern #s 63-66, Green Lantern Corps #s 58-60, & Green Lantern: Emerald Warriors #s 8-10.***
- ***Legends of the Dark Knight: Alan Davis HC,*** collecting ***Detective #s 569-575, Batman: Full Circle #1,*** and more.
- ***Legion Lost Volume 1: Run from Tomorrow TP,*** collecting ***Legion Lost #s 1-7.***
- ***Lobo: Portrait of a Bastitch TP (New Printing),*** collecting the ***Lobo*** and ***Lobo's Back*** miniseries.
- ***Penguin: Pain & Prejudice TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries and more.
- ***Showcase Presents Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Legion Of Super-Heroes #298, Amethyst, Princess Of Gemworld #s 1-12, Amethyst Annual #1, DC Comics Presents #63, & Amethyst #s 1-11.***
- ***Starman Omnibus Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Starman #s 17-29, Annual #1,*** and more.
- ***Stormwatch Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Stormwatch #s 48-50*** and ***v2 #s 1-11,*** all written by *Warren Ellis.*
- ***Superman: The Black Ring Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Action #s 896-900, Annual #13,*** and more.
- ***Superman Chronicles Volume 10 TP,*** collecting ***Superman #18-19*** as well as Superman tales from ***Action #s 53-55*** and ***World's Finest #7.***
- ***Teen Titans Volume 1: It's Our Right to Fight TP,*** collecting ***Teen Titans #s 1-7.***
- ***Voodoo Volume 1: What Lies Beneath TP,*** collecting ***Voodoo #s 1-6.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in August

Ronald Wimberly retells the story of ***Romeo & Juliet*** in hip-hop fashion, complete with Brooklyn setting, rival crews, and more, in ***Prince of Cats TP,*** an original graphic novel.

Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for September and October release) include:

- ***American Vampire Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***American Vampire 3s 12-18 & Survival of the Fittest #s 1-5.***
- ***The Annotated Sandman Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Sandman #s 21-39*** along with annotations by *Leslie Klinger.*
- ***Death: The Deluxe Edition HC,*** collecting both *Neil Gaiman* ***Death*** miniseries along with extra short tales, pinups, and more.
- ***Saga of the Swamp Thing Book 2 TP,*** collecting ***Saga of the Swamp Thing #s 28-34 & Annual #2.***
- ***The Sandman Slipcase Set,*** a collection of all ten

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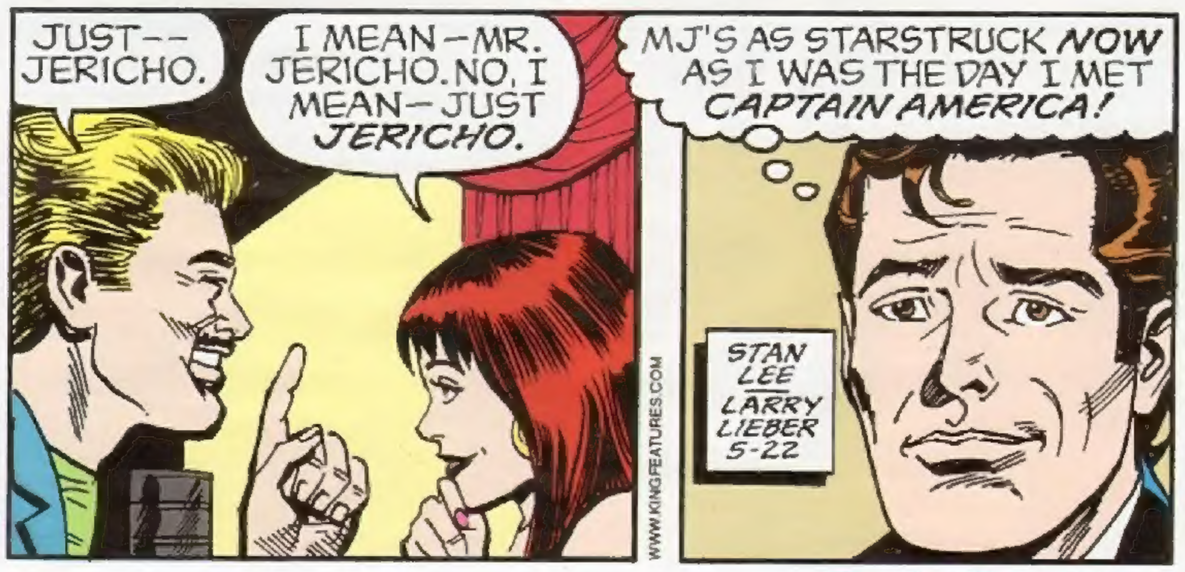
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Sandman trade paperbacks in a specially designed slip case featuring box art by *Dave McKean*.

• ***V For Vendetta Book & Mask Set,*** featuring the trade paperback of the *Alan Moore-David Lloyd* series, along with the famed V mask in PVC with white elastic band, offered in a window box.

Coming in September from DC Collectibles

DC's line of ***Arkham City*** action figures continues with ***Batman: Arkham City Series 3,*** which includes ***Batman, Clown Thug With Bat, Ra's Al Ghul, Clown Thug With Knife, Azrael,*** and ***The Penguin,*** based on the blockbuster video game.

Jim Maddox sculpts the Amazing Amazon for the ***DC Comics Super-Heroes: Wonder Woman Bust,*** based on the New 52 costume design.

The "Just-Us" League, complete with those wacky Alfred E. Neuman faces, never ends! ***The "Just-Us" League of Stupid Heroes Series 2*** offers more ***Mad***-ified versions of DC's mightiest heroes.

The Dark Knight emerges from the rubble of Gotham City in the ***Batman 1:4 Scale Museum Quality Statue,*** a cold-cast porcelain mixed-media statue sculpted by *Jon Matthews*.

Brian Fay brings the art of *Brian Bolland* into the third dimension for the ***Batman Black & White Statue Series: The Joker Statue by Brian Bolland,*** all done in monochromatic tones (as the name would indicate!).

Coming Comics—Marvel in August

The lady Penance rises, promising salvation for all who follow her in ***Age of Apocalypse #6*** by *David Lapham & Renato Arlem*.

Dan Slott & Humberto Ramos celebrate the 50th anniversary of Spidey in ***Amazing Spider-Man #692,*** an oversized issue that leads off with a tale about a different kind of power and responsibility, along with original stories by *Dean Haspiel, Joshua Hale Fialkov, & Nuno Plati*.

Marvel's celebration of Spidey's half-century mark continues with a series of books presenting new tales of Spidey's untold history. These special issues include ***Peter Parker, Spider-Man #156.1*** (*Roger Stern & Rob De Latorre*), ***Sensational Spider-Man #33.1 & 33.2*** (*Tom DeFalco & Carlo Barberi*), and ***Web of Spider-Man #s 129.1 & 129.2*** (*Stuart Moore & Damion Scott*).

Jason Aaron & Adam Kubert dispatch the Avengers on a daring raid on the X-Men's prison as they attempt to rescue their captive members in ***Avengers Vs. X-Men #9.*** Then, in ***Avengers Vs. X-Men #10*** by *Ed Brubaker & Olivier Coipel*, the situation takes an unexpected turn when Hope and

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From comic books to action figures, games to DVDs, there's something for everyone in the JUNE issue of *PREVIEWS*!

COVER STORY

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: SPIKE #1

Dark Horse Comics

As master of a steampunk ship filled with loyal, oversized alien cockroaches, Spike embarks on a journey to the dark side of the moon, setting into motion an adventure filled with demons, witches, and others who brew new evil in the world without magic!

BEFORE WATCHMEN: RORSCHACH #1

DC Entertainment

Writer Brian Azzarello and artist Lee Bermejo attempt to answer the question: "What made you this way?" in their **Before Watchmen** limited series featuring **Rohrschach**! And don't miss the latest chapter of the *Crimson Corsair* back-up epic from writer Len Wein and artist John Higgins!

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Scarlet Witch join forces... but why?

AvX: Vs #5 presents another pair of superhero faceoffs: Black Panther Vs. Storm and Angel Vs. Hawkeye, courtesy of *Matt Fraction, Jason Aaron, Leinil Yu, & John Romita Jr.*

Avengers Vs. X-Men tie-ins include ***Avengers #29*** *(Brian Bendis & Walter Simonson);* ***New Avengers #29*** *(Brian Bendis & Mike Deodato);* ***Uncanny X-Men #17*** *(Kieron Gillen & Daniel Acuna);* ***Wolverine & the X-Men #15*** *(Jason Aaron & Jorge Molina);* and ***Avengers Academy #34 & 35*** *(Christos Gage & Tom Grummett).*

Thanos claims Earth as his own in ***Avengers Assemble #6*** by *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley.* But the Avengers and the Guardians of the Galaxy team up to bring the Mad Titan some cosmically-charged pain!

Spider-Man and Carol Danvers, the new Captain Marvel, join forces in ***Avenging Spider-Man #10*** by *Kelly Sue DeConnick & Terry Dodson.* Then, in *Zeb Wells & Stefano Caselli's* ***Avenging Spider-Man #11,*** Spidey teams up with the hero he admires most – May Parker!

Captain America and Namor battle the Thule Society during WWII in ***Captain America and Namor #635.1*** by *Cullen Bunn & Will Conrad.*

Kelly Sue DeConnick & Dexter Soy introduce the Banshee Squadron in ***Captain Marvel #2.***

Nelson/Murdock no more?! In *Mar Waid's* ***Daredevil #s 16 & 17,*** Foggy discovers a secret Matt's been keeping--and he doesn't take it well! ***(DD #17*** will feature guest art by *Mike Allred.)*

The return of a menace from the past sets Daredevil, Doctor Strange and the ClanDestine on a collision course in ***Daredevil Annual #1,*** and the excitement continues in ***Wolverine Annual #1;*** both books are written and illustrated by the incomparable *Alan Davis.*

Can history's most Wanted villains save Luke Cage from his future? *Jeff Parker, Declan Shalvey, & Kev Walker* answer that question in ***Dark Avengers #179.***

What if everything you thought was funny about Deadpool...was actually just disturbing? What if he decided to kill everyone and everything that makes up the Marvel Universe? And what if he actually pulled it off? That's the premise behind *Cullen Bunn & Dalibor Talajic's* four-part weekly miniseries ***Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe.***

The early adventures of the Master of the Mystic Arts are explored in *Greg Pak & Emma Rios's* ***Dr. Strange Season One Premiere HC.***

The Defenders from the Future hope to set out on the adventure of a lifetime, and only the Fantastic Four can help them get there in ***Fantastic Four #609*** by *Jonathan Hickman & Ryan Stegman.*

X-Men legend *Neal Adams* returns to Marvel's mutants for ***First X-Men,*** a five-part miniseries co-written by *Christos Gage.* this book presents the hitherto-unrevealed history of the X-Men... *before* Xavier's team! Wolverine and Sabretooth co star in this untold blast from the past.

In a move that surprises everyone, Black Bolt and the Inhumans return to Earth in ***FF #21*** by *Jonathan Hickman & Nick Dragotta.* But what does this mean for Marvel's first family?

When Marvel's premiere thief sets his sights on his biggest score yet, he may just end up over his head. It's going to take more than just playing cards and southern charm to get out of the situation in which Gambit finds himself in ***Gambit #1*** by *James Asmus & Clay Mann,* the kickoff issue of a new ongoing series.

Hawkeye graduates to his own ongoing series this summer, courtesy of *Matt Fraction & David Aja.* With ex-Young Avenger Kate Bishop by his side, he's out to prove himself as one of Earth's Mightiest Heroes in ***Hawkeye #1.***

The Aesir/Vanir War rocks ***The Mighty Thor #18*** by *Matt Fraction & Alan Davis,* a fiftieth anniversary Thor special issue.

Hawkeye, Venom, and Ant-Man must defeat an army of villains to grab Max Fury in ***Secret Avengers #30*** by *Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera.*

Can Spider-Men Peter Parker and Miles Morales stop Mysterio? Find out in ***Spider-Men #4*** by *Brian Bendis & Sara Pichelli* as the Marvel Universe-Ultiverse crossover continues.

Divided We Fall, the big summer Ultimate Universe crossover storyline, continues in August's ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #13*** *(Brian Bendis & David Marquez),* which guest stars Ultimate Captain America; ***Ultimate Comics Ultimates #14*** *(Sam Humphries & Billy Tan),* which reunites Ultimate Captain America, Ultimate Iron Man, and Ultimate Thor; and ***Ultimate Comics X-Men #15*** *(Brian Wood & Paco Medina),* which guest-stars Ultimate Nick Fury in the ***Divided We Fall*** finale.

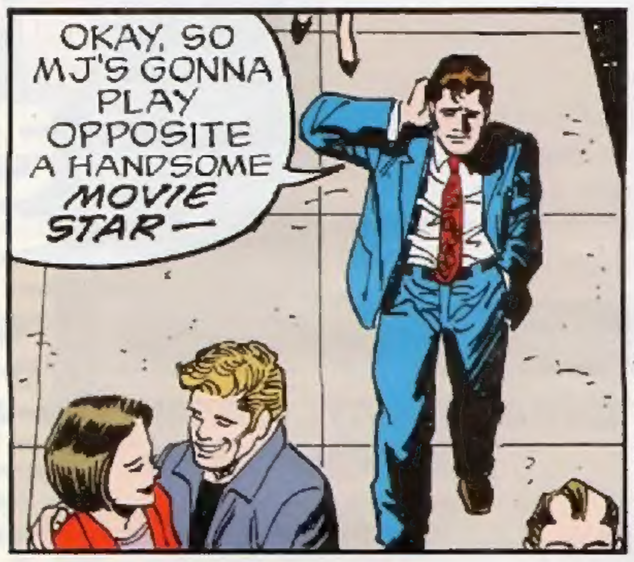
Acclaimed crime novelist and Edgar Award winner *Megan Abbott* offers her take on Frank Castle in ***Untold Tales of the Punisher MAX #3.***

Rick Remender & Declan Shalvey present Flash Thompson's confrontation with Jack O'Lantern in ***Venom #22.*** Then, in ***Venom #23,*** *Cullen Bunn & Thony Silas* follow Venom as the Avengers send him on a mission to bring in Damion Hellstrom...

Marvel collected editions (solicited for August, September, and October release) include:

- ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter: Circus of the Damned Book 3—The Scoundrel TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***Astonishing X-Men: Northstar HC,*** collecting ***Astonishing X-Men #s 48-51*** and more.
- ***Avengers: Celestial Quest TP,*** collecting the eight-part miniseries.
- ***Cable Classic Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Cable #s 15-20*** and ***Wolverine #85.***
- ***Deadpool Volume 10: Evil Deadpool TP,*** collecting ***Deadpool #s 45-49 & 49.1.***
- ***Deadpool Classic Volume 7 TP,*** collecting ***Deadpool (1997) #s 46-56*** and more.
- ***Elektra: Assassin TP,*** a new edition of the classic *Frank Miller-Bill Sienkiewicz* eight-part series.
- ***Essential Warlock Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Marvel Premiere #s 1 & 2, Warlock #s 1-15,*** and much more.
- ***Fear Itself TP,*** collecting the seven part miniseries along with ***Book of the Skull.***
- ***Fear Itself: Avengers TP,*** collecting ***Avengers #s 13-17*** and ***New Avengers #s 14-16.***
- ***Fear Itself: Journey Into Mystery TP,*** collecting ***Journey Into Mystery #s 622-626.***
- ***Fear Itself: Thunderbolts TP,*** collecting ***Thunderbolts #s 158-162.***
- ***Hulk: Abominable Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Incredible Hulk #s 50-59.***
- ***Hulk Smash Avengers TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.

- ***Journey Into Mystery: Fear Itself Fallout TP,*** collecting ***Journey Into Mystery #s 626.1 & 627-631.***
- ***Machine Teen: History 101001 TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Fantastic Four Volume 14 HC,*** collecting ***Fantastic Four #s 142-150*** and more.
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age Captain America Volume 1 TP,*** collecting *Joe Simon & Jack Kirby's* ***Captain America #s 1-4.***
- ***Millar & McNiven's Nemesis TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Marvel's Avengers: Black Widow Strikes TP,*** collecting the three-part limited series.
- ***Namor Visionaries by John Byrne Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Namor the Sub-Mariner #s 10-18.***
- ***The Stand Volume 4: Hardcases TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***Thunderbolts: Like Lightning TP,*** collecting ***Thunderbolts #s 169-174.***
- ***The Twelve Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***The Twelve #s 7-12*** and ***The Twelve: Spearhead.***


OKAY, SO MJ'S GONNA PLAY OPPOSITE A HANDSOME MOVIE STAR—
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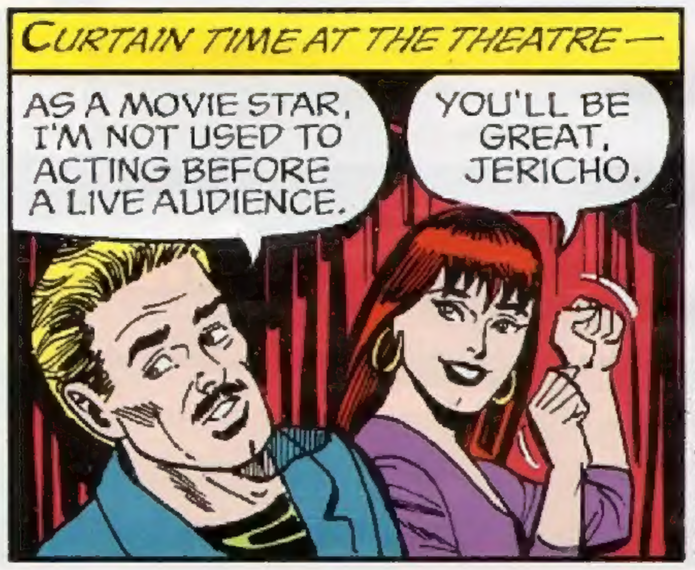
WHY SHOULD I BE JEALOUS? I'VE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE THEATRE...
IS THIS OKAY FOR OUR FIRST EMBRACE?
IT FEELS JUST RIGHT, JERICHO.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-24


CURTAIN TIME AT THE THEATRE—
AS A MOVIE STAR, I'M NOT USED TO ACTING BEFORE A LIVE AUDIENCE.
YOU'LL BE GREAT, JERICHO.
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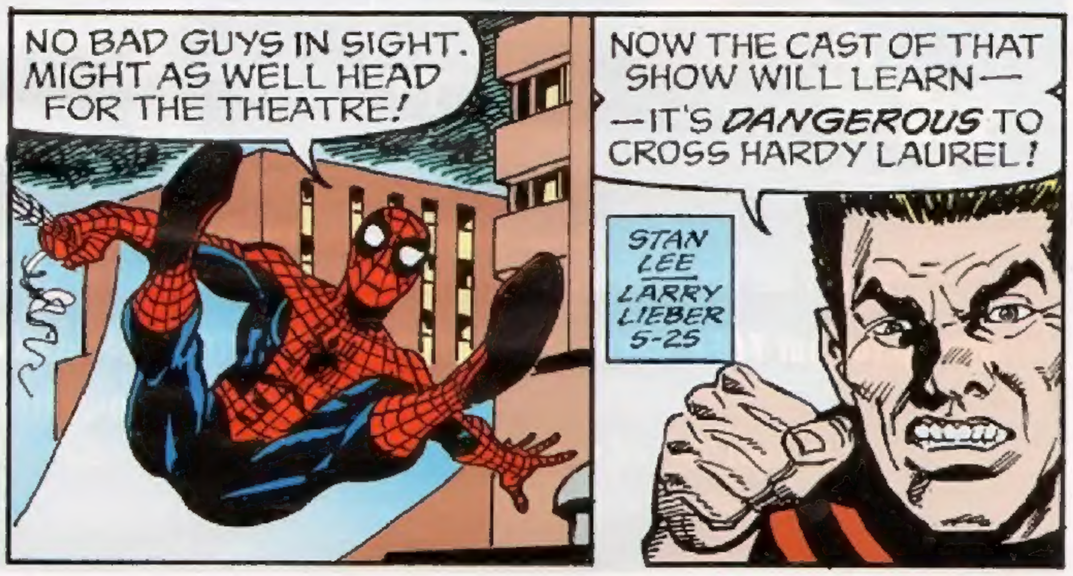
NO BAD GUYS IN SIGHT. MIGHT AS WELL HEAD FOR THE THEATRE!
NOW THE CAST OF THAT SHOW WILL LEARN— —IT'S DANGEROUS TO CROSS HARDY LAUREL!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-25

• ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man: Death of Spider-Man Omnibus HC,*** collecting ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #s 15 & 150-160, Ultimate Comics Avengers Vs. New Ultimates #s 1-6,*** and ***Ultimate Comics Fallout #s 1-6.***
• ***Ultimate Comics Ultimates by Jonathan Hickman Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Ultimate Comics Ultimates #s 1-6.***
• ***Ultimate Comics X-Men by Nick Spencer Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Ultimate Comics X-Men #s 1-6.***
• ***Uncanny X-Force Volume 4: The Dark Angel Saga Book 2 TP,*** collecting ***Uncanny X-Force #s 14-19.***
• ***Uncanny X-Men by Kieron Gillen Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Uncanny X-Men (2012) #s 1-4.***
• ***Wolverine: Goodbye, Chinatown TP,*** collecting ***Wolverine (2010) #s 17-20.***
• ***Wolverine & the X-Men by Jason Aaron Volume 2 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Wolverine & the X-Men #s 5-8.***
• ***X-Factor Volume 15: They Keep Killing Madrox TP,*** collecting ***X-Factor #s 229-232.***
• ***X-Men Legacy: Five Miles South of the Universe TP,*** collecting ***X-Men Legacy #s 254-260.***

Coming Comics— IDW in August

Gary Reed takes readers back to Deadworld in the five-part weekly ***Deadworld: War of the Dead.*** Scientists have come up with a twisted means of thwarting zombies—by turning them into Lepers, beings with dead flesh in breathing husks with flesh that even zombies won't touch.

The Eleventh Doctor returns in ***Doctor Who Annual 2012.*** This oversized issue contains three complete stories by an all-star lineup, featuring legendary writer-editor *Len Wein,* Doctor Who novelist *Richard Dinnick,* and writer *Tony Lee,* with art by *Matthew Dow Smith* and *Mitch Gerads.* Also included is a prelude to the next ongoing series by *Andy Diggle & Mark Buckingham.*

IDW presents an amazing archive of animation models and more in ***GI Joe Field Manual TP,*** a retrospective guide to the classic 1980s' cartoon series.

James Stokoe takes readers back to 1954 Japan for ***Godzilla: The Half-Century War,*** which chronicles Lieutenant Ota Murakami's half-century of efforts to protect Japan from monstrous menaces.

Joe Kubert's classic retelling of *Edgar Rice Burroughs'* ***Tarzan of the Apes,*** along with two other tales, is presented in full size in the lavish ***Joe Kubert's Tarzan of the Apes Artist's Edition HC,*** a 12" x 17" volume that is shot in full color from Kubert's original art to show off every detail.

Thomas Zaler brings back Mark and Abby in ***Love and Capes: What to Expect #1.*** The couple is expecting a baby, but they're not telling anyone yet. Will they be able to keep the secret from Darkblade, the world's best detective?

Wished that there was more blood and mayhem in ***Locke and Key?*** Then ***Locke & Key: Grindhouse*** by *Joe Hill & Gabriel Rodriguez* is the book for you. In the glare of a Depression-era summer, three Canuck gangsters pull the heist of their dreams and take off for the perfect hiding spot… an isolated mansion on the tip of Lovecraft Island known locally as Keyhouse.

More classic Kaluta sketch material is presented in ***Michael Wm Kaluta Sketchbook Series Volume 2 TP.***

Bud Sagendorf's Golden Age ***Popeye #1*** is reprinted in ***Classic Popeye Ongoing #1,*** which kicks off a comprehensive reprinting of the nearly-100-issue ***Popeye*** run.

Mark Waid & Chris Samnee commemorate the 30th anniversary of *Dave Stevens'* first Rocketeer tale with a new four-part series, ***The Rocketeer: Cargo of Doom,*** that captures the pulp-era vitality of the original Cliff Secord adventures. This series finds the Rocketeer investigating mysterious cargo coming into Los Angeles harbor... dangerous, living cargo...

April gets her moment in the sun in ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Microseries #7*** by *Barbara Randall Kesel & Marley Zarcone.*

The original microseries is reprinted in all-new full color in ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Color Classics Microseries: Raphael.***

James Roberts, Jimbo Salgado, & Guido Guidi present the origin of the Knights of Cybertron in ***Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye Annual 2012.***

IDW collected editions include:
• ***30 Days of Night Volume 2 TP,*** collecting #s 5-8 of the ongoing series.
• ***Archie: The Best of Harry Lucey Volume 2 HC,*** collecting 152 pages of classic Riverdale tales featuring Lucey art.
• ***Comics About Cartoonists HC,*** featuring work by *Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Jack Cole, Winsor McCay, Will Eisner,* and many others, is a collection of stories *about* cartoonists *by* cartoonists.
• ***Doctor Who Dave Gibbons Treasury Edition #1,*** an oversized 72-page collection of *Dave Gibbons'* tales of the Fourth Doctor.
• ***Dungeons & Dragons: Dark Sun—Ianto's Tomb TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.
• ***GI Joe: Cobra Command Volume 3 TP,*** collecting stores from ***GI Joe, Snake Eyes,*** and ***Cobra.***
• ***GI Joe/Transformers Crossover Volume 1 TP,*** collecting Marvel's four-part ***GI Joe/Transformers*** limited series as well as ***GI Joe #s 139-142.***
• ***Infestation 2 Volume 3 TP,*** collecting the ***Eberron*** and ***TMNT*** tie-in miniseries.
• ***Memorial HC,*** collecting the six-part miniseries by *Chris Roberson & Rich Ellis.*
• ***Rip Kirby Volume 5 HC,*** collecting *John Prentice* strips from 10/22/56 to 6/6/59.
• ***Skippy Volume 1: Complete Dailies 1925-1927 HC,*** collecting the daily strips by *Percy Crosby.*
• ***Starstruck TP,*** collecting the 13-part remastered series by *Elaine Lee & Michael Wm. Kaluta.*
• ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Classics Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***TMNT #s 16 & 22-23.***

Coming Comics— Image in August

Howard Chaykin revisits the world of his sexy, twisted thriller in ***Black Kiss II #1,*** the kickoff issue of a six-parter that tells the story behind that legendary story – like the original, in glorious black and white.

Award-winning letterers *Richard Starkings & JG Roshell* share the tricks of their trade in ***Comic Book Lettering The ComiCraft Way.***

Human traffickers. Rogue medical teams. Yakuza run organ mills and a six year-old drug fiend. Welcome to Dr. Benjamin Dane's nightmare. His only way out? Bring down the man who set him up by reclaiming organs already placed in some very powerful people. Watch his plan in action in ***Harvest #1*** by *AJ Lieberman & Colin Lorimer.*

Fresh from the pages of Mike Allred's ***Madman,*** Snap City's favorite heroine is ready for her own crimefighting adventures in ***It Girl & the Atomics #1*** by *Jamie S. Rich, Michael Allred, & Mike Norton.*

When a military think tank's smartest scientist decides he can no longer stomach creating weapons of destruction, will he be able to think his way out of his dilemma or find himself subject to the machinations of smaller men? Find out in ***Think Tank #1*** by *Matt Hawkins, Rahsan Ekedal, & Brian Reber.*

Image collected editions include:
• ***'Breed Volume 3 TP,*** collecting the final installment of *Jim Starlin's* cosmic saga.
• ***The Bulletproof Coffin Volume 2: Disinterred TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries.
• ***The Darkness Rebirth Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***The Darkness #s 101-105.***
• ***Glory Volume 1: The Once & Future Destroyer TP,*** collecting ***Glory #s 23-28.***
• ***Guarding the Globe Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries co-written by *Robert Kirkman.*
• ***Hell Yeah Volume 1: Last Day on Earth TP,*** collecting ***Hell Yeah #s 1-5.***
• ***The Manhattan Projects Volume 1: Science Bad TP,*** collecting ***The Manhattan Projects #s 1-5.***
• ***The Milkman Murders HC,*** collecting the *Joe Casey-Steve Parkhouse* miniseries.
• ***No Place Like Home Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***No Place Like Home #s 1-5.***
• ***Peter Panzerfaust Volume 1: The Great Escape TP,*** collecting ***Peter Panzerfaust #s 1-6.***
• ***Prophet Volume 1: Remission TP,*** collecting ***Prophet #s 21-26.***
• Spawn: Origins Book 7 HC, collecting Spawn #s 76-87.

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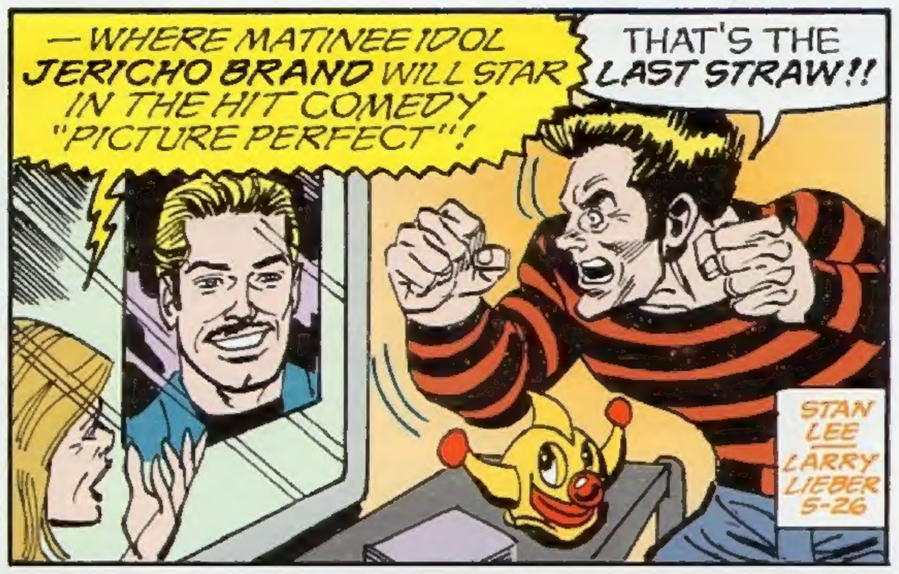
—WHERE MATINEE IDOL JERICHO BRAND WILL STAR IN THE HIT COMEDY "PICTURE PERFECT"!
THAT'S THE LAST STRAW!!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
5-26

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"[This book] unites fandoms — comics, classic B&W film, architecture, design — like a conqueror unifying thrones. Pure deliciousness, from start to finish."

—MICHAEL CHABON, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*

BATMAN®

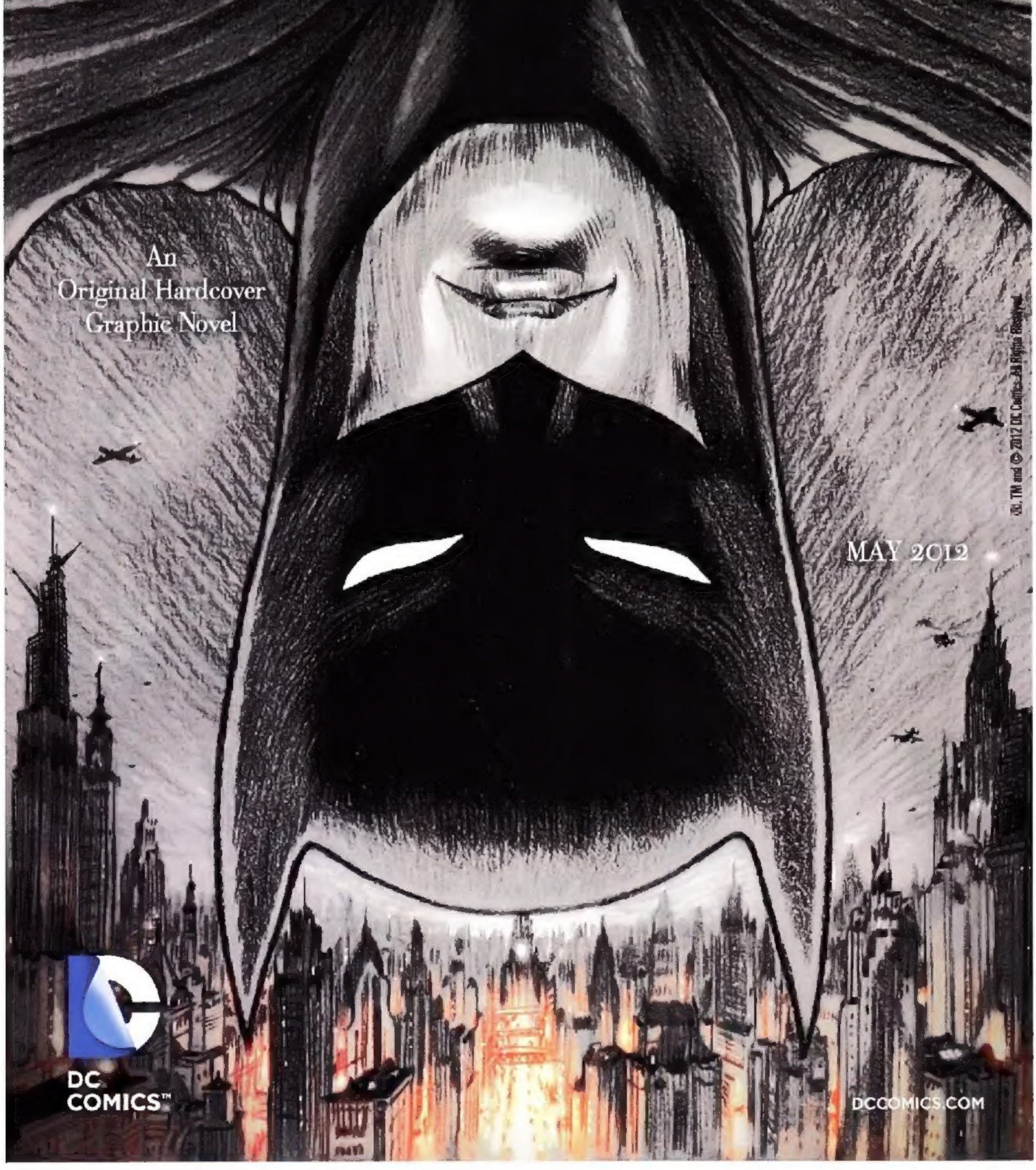
DEATH BY DESIGN

Written by
Eisner Award-winner

CHIP KIDD

Illustrated by

DAVE TAYLOR



An
Original Hardcover
Graphic Novel

MAY 2012

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